

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Hidetoshi YOKOTA, et al.

PCT Appln. No.: PCT/JP01/05298

Confirmation No.: Not Yet Assigned

Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned

Filed: February 13, 2002

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

For: VEHICLE RUNNING STATE ESTIMATION METHOD AND APPARATUS, VEHICLE
CONTROL APPARATUS AND TIRE WHEEL

#5
Pre-Amendment
DSM/LS-1000
3/19/03

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please enter the following amended claims:

A' 12. The vehicle running state estimation apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the relationship between road surface friction coefficient μ obtained from the braking distances of a vehicle under various road conditions at different speeds and the vibration level at a predetermined frequency band, the computed value of vibration level or vibration transmission level is obtained previously and the road surface friction coefficient μ at the time of running is estimated based on the relationship.

13. The vehicle running state estimation apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the frequency band is a band including the frequency of natural vibration of a tire tread land portion.